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## Toy Applauds Restoration of Transportation Funding

LANSING – Senator Laura Toy, R-Livonia, today announced her support for the “Priorities First” program introduced by Senate Republicans to restore funding to 34 critical road projects in Michigan. The “Priorities First” program will allow local communities to continue key road projects which were deferred by Governor Jennifer Granholm’s “Preserve First” initiative.

“The state of Michigan has a responsibility to conduct transportation projects in the order of the most critical need to the least critical need,” Toy said. “The Governor’s decision to just throw last year’s projects out the window without due consideration is too risky for Michigan drivers.”

The Republican initiative will restore funding for 34 critical road projects, based on objective criteria, as proposed in the 2002 Five Year Road and Bridge program. The restored funding will assist local units of government who have already put time and money into the proposed road construction locations in their communities.

Gov. Granholm’s “Preserve First” program deferred the projects without any notice to state legislators, local governments or road building organizations. Local communities around the state were also surprised by her initiative.

Two public hearings on the deferred road projects have been scheduled to allow local citizens and governments to make their concerns heard. The first hearing will be conducted on Wednesday, April 30 from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. at the Hudsonville City Hall Chambers, 3275 Central Blvd., Hudsonville. The second meeting will take place in Pontiac, Oakland County, with a time and location to be announced later this week.